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LETTER DATED 23 APRIL 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on Indonesia by the Presidency of the European Union, issued on 7 April 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official Security Council document.

(Signed) Gerhard Walter HENZE
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Germany to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Indonesia made on 7 April 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

Bearing in mind that Indonesia plays an essential role in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and is an important factor for regional stability, and being convinced that political and economic reforms as well as the consolidation of the political system based on the rule of law are indispensable for the positive development of Indonesia, the European Union (EU) notes with satisfaction that, despite serious political and economic difficulties caused by the unprecedented economic crisis as well as by the legacy of the Suharto regime, the Government of Indonesia has initiated and implemented an impressive range of political, economic, social and legal reforms.

EU particularly welcomes the steps taken by the Indonesian Government to:

(a) Foster the process of democratization by introducing new laws on political parties, the election and the role of the military as well as guaranteeing civil and social liberties;

(b) Stabilize the economy by setting up an agenda of concrete measures in close cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the field of macroeconomic policy as well as structural reform in the corporate and banking sector;

(c) Dampen the negative social effects of the crisis by implementing the social safety net programme covering education, employment, health and nutrition;

(d) Improve the human rights situation as outlined in the National Action Plan on Human Rights. In this context, EU appreciates the ratification of a number of relevant human rights instruments as well as the release of a substantial number of political prisoners.

EU considers these positive developments as a solid basis for a stable process of change of Indonesia's political, economic and social system leading to a civic society based on democratic principles, the rule of law and internationally accepted human rights standards. EU offers Indonesia its full support on this difficult reform path.

In view of the upcoming parliamentary elections of 7 June, EU is prepared to support and contribute to the election process in Indonesia by providing support to the National Plan of Action for Public Education via local non-governmental organizations as well as to set up an EU observer mission under United Nations auspices for the election and its preparation phase.

While encouraging Indonesia to further follow its reform path, EU continues to be concerned about the security situation in the country and its handling by the Indonesian security forces.

The recent violent outbreaks in the Moluccas (Ambon) and west Kalimantan with hundreds of deaths as well as the tense situation in other troubled areas (in particular Aceh and Irian Jaya) call for a new approach in dealing with these incidents.

EU considers it essential that the delicate ethnic and religious balance of Indonesia be preserved. Acts of violence jeopardizing this balance should be dealt with by the security personnel in a way that is in accordance with international human rights standards and with the aim of reducing the existing high level of tension.

EU therefore calls on all parties concerned to show the utmost restraint in the pursuit of their political goals in order to avoid a further increase of tension.

EU looks forward to further developing its partnership with Indonesia through practical assistance, through dialogue both bilaterally and in multilateral forums and through high-level exchanges.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with EU, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.